APA Format Matthew Batts

Concluding Paragraph Connection Decade Paper

Sequential Development 19 November 2009

Point of View

Theses Statement

Climax Decade of Baseball

Baseball; this is America’s pastime. This game has been played for over a century and a half now. The glory years of this historical sport really began to rocket in the beginning of the 1900’s. During the first decade of the 1900’s baseball began to form all the rules and regulations, and is comparable to how the sport is played today. This is an important topic to me because sports really impacts a lot of people nowadays, and many people wonder how such a sport was started, played, and how it became popular. I chose this topic to show, and tell the beginning of the illustrious career of a sport that began many years ago.

Many people may wonder what or how the history of baseball began, and who came up with such an idea. Baseball began in 1744 by John Newbery. (Wikimedia Foundation Inc., 2009) Back then and most of the 1800’s was two teams hitting, and catching a ball while running around four bases. In the 1840’s in America the game became popular in New York. It became so popular that many merchants formed baseball clubs. The Civil War dismissed baseball, but it was to return in 1869 with the NL (National League), which is one half of the Major League Baseball today. In the 1880’s and 90’s baseball had more teams and oppositions facing each other in a salary reformed organization. A salary reformed organization is an organization that is run by paying the people apart of it. So this is when the NL started to pay the players for playing baseball. Also, within the 1880’s and 90’s many other organizations like AA (American Association) and PL (Player’s League) were started, and absorbed by the NL within these years. This is what started baseball before we knew it today.

In the 1900’s the first thing to impact baseball was the formation of the Western Association into the AL (American League), the second half of the MLB today. Following up in 1901, the NL and AL form the MLB, and in 1903 they had the first World Series with the Boston Pilgrims beating the Pittsburgh Pirates [100 Years of Baseball, 2002].

According to 100 Years of Baseball (2002) the new rules made in the 1900-1909 goes as following. In 1900 the shape of the home plate must be a seventeen inch wide five sided figure, no longer a fifteen inch square. Then in 1901 and 1902, the rules that the first 2 fouls are counted as a strike and the infield fly rule were born. Finally in 1903 through 1909 was that at first in 03 only one umpire could be on the field, second in 08 there are 4 umpires, and 2 are on the field at the time, and finally in 09 all four umpires were to be on the field. In addition in 1909 a bunt on the third strike is now called a strike out. With these basic rules in set, many ideas on how the rules nowadays are evolved from these ones.

Finally, baseball in the beginning of the 1900’s became more race benefitted. In 1900 many people setup African American Leagues. Even thought the fight against racism was occurring, it didn’t stop African Americans from playing. In 1906, 2 white teams, 1 Cuban team, and 5 African American teams joined together to form the International League of Independence Baseball Club (American Decades, 1996), which became the first inter racial league of baseball.

In conclusion, much of these years stood out to me in the history of baseball from the African Americans Leagues, to the early forms of rules and regulations used today, and also, the overall history of baseball. Furthering this lesson would mean for me to explain the rest of the 1990’s and early 2000’s to show the progression of baseball in 100 years. Also, you will notice by that there is not too much that happened since after the climax of baseball in the early 1900’s baseball after they made very few changes to be what is has become today to be known as America’s favorite pastime.